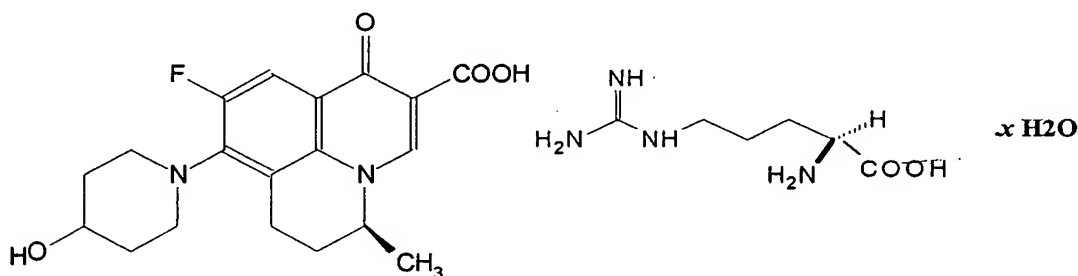


IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A compound which is selected from the DL-, D- or L- arginine salts of racemic or optically active isomers of 9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo [i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid.
2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, which is selected from the DL-, D- or L- arginine salts of optically active isomers of 9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo [i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid, which selected compound is substantially free of any other 9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo [i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid – arginine salt stereoisomer.
3. (Original) A compound of claim 2, which is selected from S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt and S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo [i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid D-arginine salt.
4. (Original) A compound of claim 2, wherein the weight ratio of S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt or S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid D-arginine salt to other stereoisomers of this salt is at least 95:5.

5. (Original) A compound of claim 4, wherein the weight ratio of S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt or S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid D-arginine salt to other stereoisomers of this salt is at least 99:1.

6. (Original) S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt of the formula I



Formula I

in which x denotes 0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1.0, 2.0 or 3.0 in a crystalline form.

7. (Original) A S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt according to claim 6, wherein $x = 1$.

Claims 8-21 cancelled.

22. (Original) S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo [i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid D-arginine salt having m.p. 241 – 243°C, and $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -174.4^\circ$ (c=1, methanol).

23. (Original) R-(+)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo [i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt.

24. (Original) R-(+)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo [i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid D-arginine salt having m.p. (DSC) 232.0°C, and $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +171.4^\circ$ (c=1, methanol)

25. (Original) R-(+)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo [i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid DL-arginine salt.

26. (Original) A compound selected from RS-(±)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo [i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid DL-arginine salt, RS-(±)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo [i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt or RS-(±)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo [i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid D-arginine salt.

Claims 27-32 cancelled.

33. (Original) A method for enhancing optical purity of S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j] quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt comprising,

(a) suspending a partially optically impure mixture of 9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo [i, j] quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid comprising 70% S-(-) isomer and 30% R-(+)- isomer to 97% S-(-) isomer and 3% R-(+)- isomer in water and organic solvent to form a suspension,

(b) adding an equimolar quantity of L-arginine to the suspension and heating suspension at 40 to 70°C to obtain a clear solution, and

(c) adding 2 to 3 times more of the organic solvent added in step a) and stirring at 0 to 45°C, for 1 hr to 5 hr, to effect the crystallization and isolating the product by filtration and drying.

Claims 34-37 cancelled.

38. (Original) A composition comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j] quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid D-arginine salt, S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid DL-arginine salt, R-(+)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H, 5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt, R-(+)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid

D-arginine salt, R-(+)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid DL-arginine salt, RS-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt, RS-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid D-arginine salt and RS-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid DL-arginine salt and a carrier, diluent, solvent or excipient.

Claims 39-42 cancelled.

43. (Original) A method for treating a disease caused by a microbial infection in a mammal comprising administering an effective amount of a compound selected of the group consisting of S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid D-arginine salt, S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid DL-arginine salt, R-(+)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt, R-(+)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid DL-arginine salt, RS-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt, RS-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid

5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid D-arginine salt and RS-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid DL-arginine salt to the mammal in need thereof.

44. (Original) A process for the manufacture of a compound selected from the group selected from the group consisting of S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid D-arginine salt, S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid DL-arginine salt, R-(+)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt, R-(+)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid D-arginine salt, R-(+)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid DL-arginine salt, RS-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid L-arginine salt, RS-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid D-arginine salt and RS-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-1-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-2-carboxylic acid DL-arginine salt S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-carboxylic acid D-arginine salt comprising the steps of:

a) suspending an enantiomer or racemic mixture of 9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-carboxylic

acid in a C₁-C₃ alkanol solvent and adding an aqueous solution of DL, L or D arginine;

b) stirring the mixture at 40-70°C for 10-45 minutes; and evaporating the solution to dryness under reduced pressure.

45. (Original) A process according to claim 44, wherein the amounts used of S-(-)-9-fluoro-6,7-dihydro-8-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)-5-methyl-oxo-1H,5H-benzo[i,j]quinolizine-carboxylic acid and D-arginine are equal molar amounts.

46. (Original) A process according to claim 44, wherein the solvent is selected from methanol, ethanol, or isopropanol.